

AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS

Figure 2 has been amended to include the reference “6a” described in the specification and Figure 5 has been amended to remove the reference numeral “125” and to add reference numeral “148”. Enclosed are marked-up and clean copies of Figures 2 and 5.

REMARKS

Applicants thank the Examiner for the thorough consideration given the present application. Claims 1-8 and 10-19 are currently being prosecuted. Claims 1-5, 7, 10, 13, 15, 17 and 19 have been amended, and claim 9 has been canceled by the present amendment. The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider his rejections in view of the Amendments and Remarks as set forth herein below.

CLAIM FOR PRIORITY

It is gratefully acknowledged that the Examiner has recognized the Applicants' claim for foreign priority. Because the Applicants' claim for foreign priority has been perfected, no additional action is required from the Applicants at this time.

DRAWINGS

Regarding the objection to the drawings, Figures 2 and 5 have been amended to include reference numeral "6a" and "148", respectively, as these reference numerals are described in the specification. Figure 5 has also been amended to remove the reference numeral "125". The specification has also been amended to include the reference numerals "40, 97 and 143". In addition, the Office Action indicates the reference numeral "75" described in paragraph [0099] is not shown in the drawings. However it is respectfully noted the reference numeral "75" is shown in Figure 4. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested the objection to the drawings be withdrawn.

SPECIFICATION CHANGES

Further, the specification has been amend to correct minor informalities and as noted above to address the rejection to the drawings. The abstract has also been amended to be less than a 150 words as request in the Office Action. A substitute specification is enclosed. It is believed no new matter has been added.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 102(b)

Claims 1-5, 7-12, 18 and 19 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C § 102(b) as anticipated by Conrath. This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Amended independent claim 1 includes a combination of elements and is directed to a washing machine including a tub having an open front side, a drum rotatably provided in the tub to hold laundry, a motor rotating the drum, a cabinet having the tub and the motor inside, a control unit configured to control a vibration of the tub, and a vibration sensing assembly configured to sense the vibration of the tub. The vibration sensing assembly includes a fixing part fixed to an inner wall of the cabinet, a first rotational body having a first end connected to the fixing part and configured to rotate a first predetermined range with respect to the fixing part so as to restrict a front to rear vibration of the tub. Also included is a second rotational body having a first end connected to the tub and a second end connected rotatably to a second end of the first rotational body. Further, the second rotational body is configured to rotate a second predetermined range with respect to the first rotational body so as to restrict an up and down vibration of the tub. The washing machine also includes a sensor configured to sense a rotational movement of at least one from the first and second rotational bodies.

These features are supported at least by Figures 4, 5 and 7-9 and the corresponding description in the specification. For example, Figure 4 illustrates a vibration sensing assemble 110 configured to sense the vibration of the tub 70 in which the vibration sensing assembly 110 includes a fixing part 120 fixed to inner wall of the cabinet 54. The vibration sensing assembly 110 also includes, as shown in Figure 5 and 7-9, a first rotational body 130 having a first end connected to the fixing part 120 and configured to rotate a first predetermined range with respect to the fixing part 120 so as to restrict the front to rear vibration of the tub 70 (see in particular Figure 8). Figures 4, 5 and 7-9 also illustrate a second rotational body 140 having a first end connected to the tub 70 and a second end connected rotatably to a second end of first rotational body 130. As shown in Figure 9, the second rotational body 140 is configured to rotate a second predetermined range with respect to the first rotational body 130 so as to restrict an up and down vibration of the tub (see also paragraphs [0093] and [0097], for example).

On the contrary, Conrath merely discloses a switch assembly 21 in which an input member 22 is tripped by a top rim 19 of the tub 12 when the tub 12 vibrates more than the distance between the tub rim 19 and input member 22. As clearly shown in Figure 1, the switch assembly including the input member 22 is not connected to the tub 12, but there is a space between the input member 22 and tub 12. This differs from the present invention in which the first rotational body is connected to the fixing part and second rotational body connected to the tub is connected to the first rotationally body.

Conrath also discloses the switch assembly 21 is actuated when the door is open to prevent a child's finger being inserted into the moving washer. However, as shown in Figures 1 and 3, Conrath does not teach or suggest the claimed vibration sensing assembly including the connected first and second rotational bodies in which the first rotational body rotates a first predetermined range with the fixing part so as to restrict a front to rear vibration of the tub and a second rotational body connected to the first rotational body and configured to rotate a second predetermined range with respect to the first rotational body so as to restrict an up and down vibration of the tub.

Accordingly, it respectfully submitted independent claim 1 and each of the claims depending therefrom patentably define over Conrath.

REJECTION UNDER 35 USC § 103

Further, it is respectfully submitted the rejection of claims 6 and 13-17 under 35 U.S.C § 103(a) noted in items 14, 16 and 18 in the Office Action have also been overcome as these claims are dependent claims and Smith et al., Gazda et al., and Dalen et al. also do not teach or suggest features recited in independent claim 1.

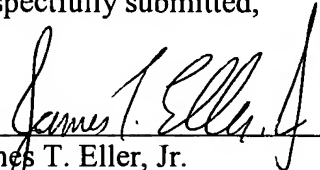
CONCLUSION

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact David A Bilodeau Reg. No. 42,325 at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37.C.F.R. §§1.16 or 1.14; particularly, extension of time fees.

Dated: February 27, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By 

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Attachment: Replacement Sheets (Figs. 2 and 5)
Annotated Sheets (Figs. 2 and 5)

FIG. 2

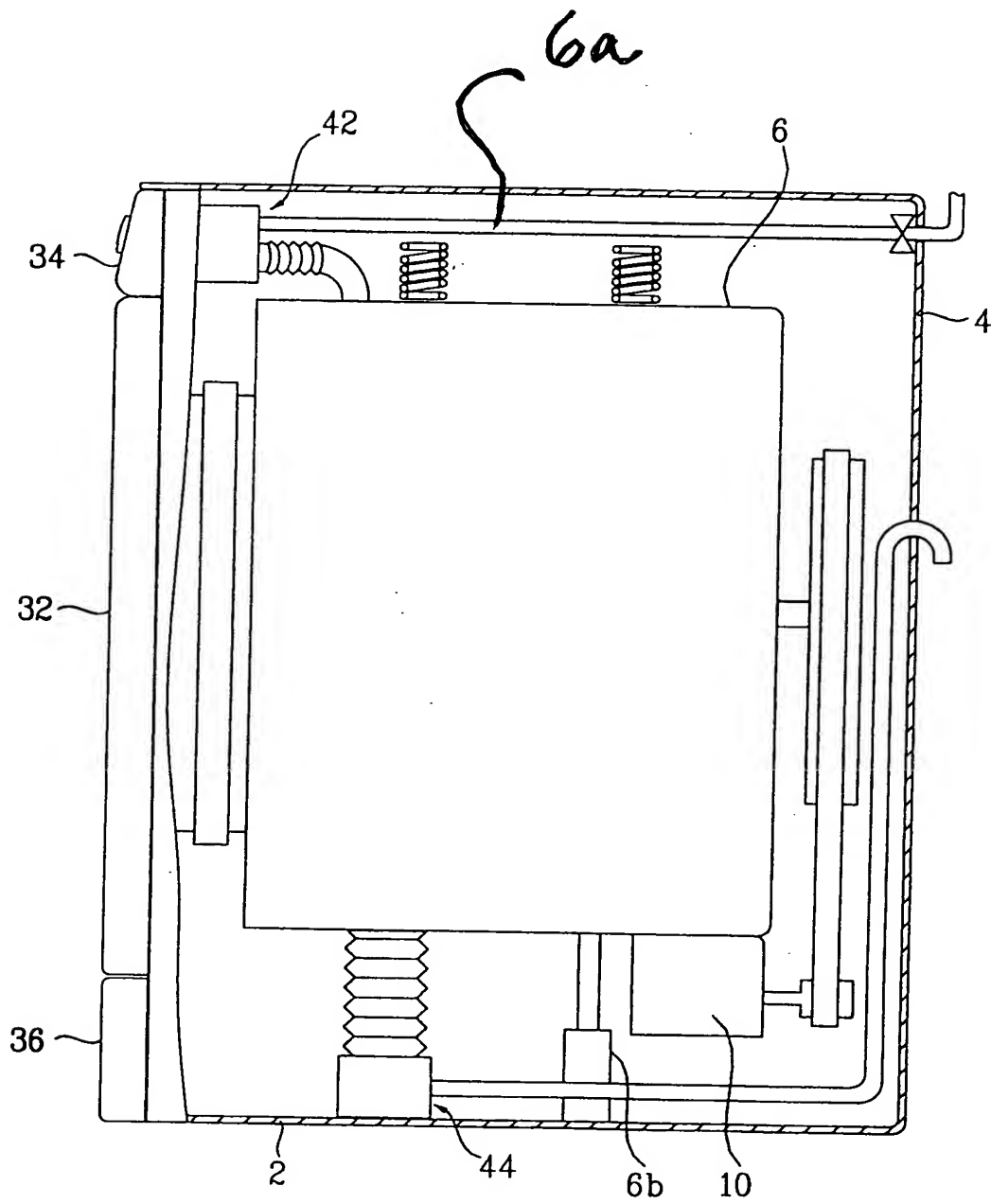




FIG. 5

